Information Education and Communication activities through most of the available modes are undertaken by the Ministry. In Electronic Media (audio and audio visual) audio/video spots as well as half an hour programmes in Hindi and regional languages are produced and telecast/broadcast over Doordarshan/AIR. In print media press advertisement on all India basis in Hindi, English and regional languages are issued periodically. Booklets, leaflets on the rogrammes in various languages are also printed for wide distribution amongst the people in rural areas. Guidelines, manuals, evaluation studies relating to different programmes are also printed as per need. A fortnightly newsletter in Hindi and a monthly newsletter in English and 11 regional languages is being circulated to all Panchayats in the country free of cost highlighting the schemes of the Ministry, success stories, rural technologies as well as development schemes of other Departments.

Veracity of persons included in BPL 'Ist

†4304. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had conducted any survey to identify the reasons for living in acute poverty;

(b) whether a number of well off persons too have shown themselves as extremely poor in the survey; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take stringent action in this regard this time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has advised all the States and Union Territories to initiate action to conduct BPL Census, 2002 for identification of 'poor' and 'non-poor' in the rural areas.

(b) In the BPL Census, 1997, certain instances of non-deserving persons finding place in the BPL list and of non-inclusion of poor in the BPL list in some States have come to light.

(c) As per the instructions issued by the Ministry, the BPL list of each village is to be finalised with the approval of the Gram Sabha and is to be displayed for public scrutiny.The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised to strictly foilow the instructions

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.